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ON THE NATURE AND TREATMENT OF CALCULOUS DISEASES.

BY BENJAMIN W. DUDLEY, M.D. LEXINGTON, KY.

[Continued from page 155.]

AMONG those who have adopted the principles of Surgery inculcated by John Hunter, it is esteemed indispensably necessary to reduce the general system, however perfect the health of the patient may be, with a view to prepare him for an operation. Some are in the habit of free and frequent bleeding in order to suppress or extinguish any inflammatory disposition that might be made manifest, by any great shock of the system ; whilst others, not very credulous in regard to the efficacy of any previous treatment, trust all to nature, except that they may evacuate the alimentary canal. The idea that high health is a state unpropitious to recovery, among those who have sustained violence from injuries, or operations, originated in false views on the part of Mr. Hunter, and tends to great mischief in practice. Such an error could only have been embraced and propagated under the circumstances in which he derived all his experience. In camps, jail-ships, large hospitals, and very populous cities, the atmosphere is never pure ; and hence the liability of the strong and vigorous to morbid action consequent to great injuries and extensive operations ; a liability much less alarming to the inhabitant of villages and country situations.

The strong and athletic, placed under the favorable circumstances of others, who may have been freely and healthily evacuated in the treatment of their maladies, whereby the digestive circle of organs are maintained in their functions, would have given to Mr. Hunter a very different result as a consequence of injuries and capital operations. Fulness of health and strength of constitution are, in fact, the surest guarantees of speedy restoration from great injuries and capital operations ; while danger may be apprehended in proportion to defect in one or both of these particulars. When the strength of constitution is sufficient for all the purposes of restoration, and the various important organs are in the exercise of their accustomed offices, success must ensue to an operation, whatever may be its nature or extent, provided parts essential to life be not actually destroyed. The efficacy of blood-letting, as a preparatory remedy in subduing the susceptibility to inflammation after operations, is relied upon by some of the most distinguished practitioners of Great Britain. My own experience is by no means in favor of this remedy ;

nor am I inclined to the opinion that it can be sustained in general practice. The abstraction of a portion of the circulating fluids is necessarily followed by a loss of balance between the vascular and other systems, and the consequence of this loss of equilibrium is torpor in some one of the more susceptible organs; a condition of things favorable to the development of inflammatory action, when the causes calculated to excite it are at hand. Inflammation succeeding to the frequent use of the lancet is the more difficult to control, by reason of the extent of the morbid associations which have been established, by the repeated abstraction of blood, which must subside before healthy action can be restored.

A distinguished oculist of Great Britain ascribed his success principally to the repeated use of the lancet before his patients were operated upon. I have never bled any patient, to prepare him for an operation; and the only case of cataract in which I have failed, because of the supervision of inflammation, in a practice of five-and-twenty years, happened in a lady whose exceeding delicacy of health caused me to mistake the signs of inflammation for those of hysteria, and in which the most ardent advocates of the lancet would not have urged its use before the operation. I have not found it necessary to use this remedy with a view to control vascular excitement after any operation, except those performed on the eyes; and then, when necessary, it has been used with admirable effects. The principles laid down by Marshall Hall in reference to the loss of blood, with a view to control vascular excitement, I have followed for twenty years, and embrace them as of inappreciable value. In the case of a man of middle age, on whom the operation of lithotomy was performed, whose life was in most imminent peril from hæmorrhage, the introduction of compresses into the neck of the bladder, along side of a catheter, arrested the bleeding, and when the compresses were taken away about the fourth day, suppuration had been established throughout the wound. By the tenth day, the wound was healed. But the weather being oppressive, the patient, contrary to the advice of his nurse, threw off his flannel, and contracted pleurisy, of which he died a week after, spitting blood and matter. It is believed that the excessive loss of blood sustained after the operation, by inducing torpor in the liver, spleen, and other abdominal organs, added much to the susceptibility of the system to the inflammation which destroyed this patient. A torpid state of the digestive organs, œdema of the lower limbs, a prostrate state of the muscles, general anasarca, a bilious aspect, and a morbid state of the general surface, are all known to ensue upon the loss of large quantities of blood; and should an individual thus situated sustain the shock of a severe operation, the danger of inflammation will be much greater, according to correct principles, and as known from observation. The inflammatory action, under such circumstances, may not run so high as when it is developed in a constitution of unimpaired vigor; but yet it is more difficult to control, while there is increased danger from a defect in the self-sustaining power of the system.

The distressing and dangerous nature of calculous diseases has always elicited a large amount of professional talents, with a view to adopt the

most appropriate medical treatment ; to select the best among the variously modified instruments ; and to execute the operation least hazardous and most decisive in its nature. The *lateral* method of opening the bladder has received the sanction of so large a majority of the distinguished surgeons of every country, during the past and present century, as almost to put at rest all opposition. Still, however, this mode of penetrating the bladder has been attended with such a frightful mortality in the large cities of Europe, where nearly all the afflicted with this disease congregate for relief, that attention has been kept alive to other modes, by which more success might possibly be secured.

The *high* operation has at all times since its introduction to public notice, maintained a certain share of professional approbation ; and that it is peculiarly adapted to certain cases, while it may be performed with facility and success, we are not permitted to entertain a doubt. M. Suberbielle, of Paris, the present advocate of this operation, had performed it, in the year 1831, *fifty-six times* ; and was successful in *forty-five* of this number ; a very high degree of success for European city practice.

The mortifying and distressing effects of the lateral operation, as they are too frequently experienced among *females*, consisting in a loss of retentive power in the neck of the bladder, constitute alone an ample reason for preferring the high operation always in their case, where the calculus is very large and firm. In ordinary cases, its extraction may be effected without the aid of cutting instruments ; and when, after the urethra is thoroughly dilated, the stone proves too large to be removed, and is, withal, too firm to be broken up by instruments, the *high* operation should have the preference. In all the cases that have come under my charge, the female has been relieved without cutting instruments ; and it is believed that in a very large majority a cure may be effected in the same way. But I have seen a case in the hands of a Parisian surgeon, M. Boyer, in which the calculus filled the bladder, and the uterus was suspended at the os externum, in which the high operation was successfully performed, and the latter organ replaced in its natural position, after having been literally exposed and suspended without, for many years. When the calculus is of large dimensions, and is, notwithstanding, removed by dilating the urethra, it may occur that the part from over-distension or laceration may be left in the condition more especially to be apprehended after the lateral operation. A little girl, of eight years, who was under my charge, furnishes a case in point, in which incontinence of urine resulted from the dilatation, and continued for three years ; but before puberty, she regained perfect command over the organ. On the contrary, females have applied to me for relief from the distressing effects of the lateral operation ten years after it was performed, and it is proper here to add, that I could not afford relief.

I have heard Mr. Abernethy suggest the propriety of maintaining a certain position after the lateral operation, in order to secure a healthy reunion of the divided surfaces ; and it is possible were such patients required to rest on the stomach for four or five days, the object might be secured ; but since the high operation does not endanger the healthy

functions of the bladder, and involves parts not more essential to life than the other, there would seem to exist a strong reason for giving it the preference in all the cases among females, wherein the dilatation of the urethra does not afford the proper facilities of extracting the calculus without the necessity of cutting.

The method of Civiale has attracted much attention within the last ten years; and according to its advocates, it is an operation attended by equal success, excites less pain, and involves a smaller amount of danger, than any other. To the timid it offers the admirable recommendation of proposing a cure without the use of cutting instruments; as it is reported to be performed while the patient sits in his chair, and is entertained in pleasant conversation. The instruments that are used in this operation are all fashioned with a view to accomplish one particular end; however varied in size and form, the object in the use of all, is the reduction of the calculus in the bladder to small fragments. Whether, therefore, it is bored down with the perforator, crushed to pieces by the forceps, or reduced to sand by percussion, the principle upon which the merit of the operation is to be sustained before the community, is the same.

The calculus must be reduced to the condition of sand, or of fragments sufficiently small to be evacuated with the urine, and must be brought away before the cure is made complete. The difference in the manner of reducing the calculus, is not in any respect a departure from the principle involved in the operation, as proposed by the original author of the plan. An inventor of an individual glass in optics is as much entitled to the reputation gained by Newton from his splendid discoveries in that science, as Heurteloup is worthy of the reputation gained by Civiale for destroying the stone in the bladder, on the bare ground of suggesting percussion as one mode of reducing the calculus.

It is the principle of grinding it down in the bladder, that sheds reputation on the inventor; not the variety in the mode by which this is put into practice. But while Civiale is entitled to all the credit of this mode of curing the most distressing malady to which humanity is liable, it remains to be decided how far it is an operation that may be introduced into general practice; or whether by reason of its peculiar character, it is found only applicable to certain favorable, and not altogether common cases of the disease. Should the latter be the decision of surgeons upon it, then, like many other plausible innovations, its career will be short, while it will soon roll into the common vortex that awaits all suggestions more speculative than practical in science. That a straight instrument, and one of much larger dimensions than the common catheter, may be passed without any particular difficulty into the bladder, is a fact well known; and it was from a knowledge of the possible advantage to be derived to surgery from it, that Civiale must have conceived originally the practicability of his operation. The medical public is yet to be informed in regard to the particular effects of large straight instruments upon the parts involved in this mode of removing calculi. The experience of Messieurs Civiale and Heurteloup enables them to communicate some interesting information upon the pathology

of the testes, vas deferens, prostate gland, and bladder, as they may have observed it consequent to the use of their instrument; and they may have discovered why the left testicle is most subject to sarcocele under such circumstances. When the calculus is soft and small; the bladder, prostate gland, and urethra healthy, and the system unexcitable, the operation of Civiale may be performed with some safety and success by those accustomed to the use of his instruments. But when the calculus is either remarkable for its magnitude or hardness, when the bladder is ulcerated, inflamed, or highly excitable, when the prostate gland is diseased, or the urethra contracted and inflamed, the instruments of Civiale are inadmissible with the safety of the patient.

In very populous cities where the disease is common, the surgeon might have an opportunity of selecting those cases in which the method of breaking down the calculus in the bladder could be safely and successfully performed; but when in addition to the inconsiderable number of favorable cases that occur, it is acknowledged to be an operation requiring great mechanical skill in the use of instruments, together with a delicate tact in seizing and commanding the calculus, it must appear obvious that it is a practice which cannot command public approbation.

The condemnatory opinions of Larrey and other distinguished surgeons of Paris, which are the result of observations made upon patients operated upon after this manner, for calculous affections, are before the public. With a knowledge of them, it is presumed the young aspirant in the profession would adopt a less objectionable and more simple method of cure.

[To be continued.]

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#### HEMORRHAGIC PHTHISIS.

BY THOMAS GLYSSON, M.D. NEWPORT, VT.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MR. EDITOR,—I take the liberty to send you the following, which is placed entirely at your disposal.

I was called on the 22d of March, to prescribe for a boy aged about 12 years, of sanguine temperament, rather approaching the choleric, and of a strumous habit. His health for the last four or five years has been poor, owing to a severe attack of rubeola, which became seated upon the lungs, and in which his present disease had its origin—of course has been unable to labor much, except at intervals, during this length of time. There had been slight attacks of hemorrhage for several days previous to my first visit, but of not sufficient amount to draw much attention from his parents. He had suffered, however, for a long time from an exceedingly severe cough, attended with but little expectoration, but entirely free from blood until the 12th of March, which was the first time any had been noticed. The relative proportion increased very rapidly, when it was expectorated in pretty large quantities; and this began to excite, in his friends, some fears as to the result. The amount of hemorrhage daily, up to the evening of my first visit,

was, perhaps, about 8 or 12 ounces. The quantity of blood discharged during the evening of my arrival (about 11 o'clock), from the representation made by his parents, I should judge would not exceed 20 or 24 ounces; and I found him laboring under a violent cough, pain and considerable tightness across the chest; severe pain in the head; extremely restless nights; slight chills, alternated with burning flushes upon the surface of the skin; considerable vertigo; extremely foetid breath; a saltish taste in the mouth and fauces; bowels costive; appetite poor. There was profuse night sweats; a deep hectic flush upon each cheek, and a coat of deep brown (rather bordering upon a very dark color) fur upon the tongue. Pulse upon my arrival, 94 in a minute: three quarters of an hour after, it had fallen to 83—moderately full, hard, wirey, and possessing a peculiar kind of acuteness or sharpness, which I never had before noticed. Ordered cupping over the thoracic region, which instantly relieved the pain, and lessened the severity of the cough. Prescribed Dover's powder in doses of 8 grains, to be repeated once in four hours. Drinks to consist of mucilages, as gum aciac. cortex ulmus fulva, &c. As an astringent, a solution of gum catechu, in the proportion of 3 ss. to lbj. of water—dose one table-spoonful, to be increased to two, if necessary, and to be repeated once in three hours. As a deobstruent, pl. hyd. in doses of one grain, once in six hours, and a cathartic of ol. ricini.

March 24. This evening visited my patient again, and found there had been considerable improvement, both in symptoms and general appearance. Since my first visit, had coughed but little, and but a slight trace of blood in the expectoration, which, on examination, resembled that of an individual laboring under the advanced stages of phthisis strumosa. There had been an abatement of the cold chills, burning heat and flushes upon the skin; not sensible of any pain in the head or chest; no dizziness; hectic flush upon the cheeks not so deep, and disappearing sooner than heretofore; a gentle diaphoresis upon the surface; tongue becoming clean; breath less foetid; mouth and fauces quite moist; pulse 70 in a minute, soft, moderately full, and but little of that peculiar acuteness remaining; physic had operated favorably, and some appetite existing. Continue all former medicines.

26. Every symptom except the cough and expectoration had disappeared; appetite good; bowels regular; tongue clean; no pain or tightness across the chest; dizziness entirely gone. There remained a slight hectic flush upon the cheeks; skin free and moist; and able to sit up a considerable part of the time and walk about some. The expectorated matter was lessening in quantity and improving in quality. Pulse 63 in a minute. Discontinued the solution of gum catechu, and, with the exception of the addition of a small quantity of sup. carb. soda to the Dover's powder, continued the medicines as before mentioned.

April 10. I saw the boy's father to-day, who informed me that he continued to improve until yesterday, when his cough became worse, and there was found to be mingled with the expectorated matter a small quantity of blood, and wished me to send him some additional medicines. In compliance, I sent him the following. R. T. C. opii, T.

opii, āā . i.—dose, 15 drops; repeat once in four hours, and if that quantity is not sufficient to procure an abatement of the cough, increase five drops at every dose until it did.

23d. I was requested to visit this patient again, but owing to ill health, and the patient being at a considerable distance, was unable to comply. On inquiry, however, I learned that he was attacked yesterday with cholera morbus, and the stomach so irritable as to be unable to retain anything upon it, everything being rejected immediately on being swallowed. His father likewise informed me that the contents of another abscess had been discharged from the lungs, and in all probability the exciting cause of the present attack. The matter discharged was mingled with blood, and, as was observed by him, the most fœtid of anything he ever saw. The drops sent him on the 10th had had a favorable effect, and the improvement continued until the rupture of the abscess, which was undoubtedly the present cause of the commotion in the stomach and bowels.

I sent him the following, with a promise that a visit might be expected as soon as I was able to attend. R. Opii gr. ij.; sac. saturni gr. j.; ipecac gr. ss.—a dose, and repeat once in five hours. Pl. hyd. in doses of one grain once in six hours.

25. Visited my patient and found him laboring under some pain in the lumbar region; a violent cough; extremely fœtid breath; some pain and tightness across the chest; pain in the right iliac region. The pain complained of in the chest, was located in the region of anterior and inferior portion of the left lobe of the lungs. Expectoration was more copious, and had put on more of a purulent appearance; respiration rather short and quick. The disturbance of the bowels had subsided, and likewise the nausea, except at the attack of a paroxysm of coughing. Severe night sweats, though not so profuse as they were when he first came under my care—cold chills, alternated with burning flushes of heat upon the skin. Tongue considerably coated, but under the use of the blue pill had begun to improve. For the last week has had very restless nights; considerable starting of the extremities during sleep, together with unpleasant dreams and a troublesome itching of the nose. Saturday evening, during a paroxysm of vomiting, discharged two worms, which, from the description given of them by his parents, I judged belonged to the class *Helminthia Alvi*, variety *Ascaris Lumbricoides*. There remained a deep hectic flush upon the cheeks of about the size of half a crown; a saltish taste in the mouth and fauces, &c. Discharges from the bowels of a dark brown color, sometimes bordering upon green. Pulse 90 in a minute, moderately full, slightly corded, and that peculiar sharpness before mentioned. Ordered cupping over the region of the thorax, and the following: R. opii, coni. āā 3i. myrrhæ 3ss. scillæ, camph. āā gr. x.—M. and divide into pills of 3 gr. each—one pill to be given once in 4 hours. Pl. hyd. as formerly, and a cathartic of ol. ricini. On examination I found a slight trace of spinal irritation existing—pressure applied over the two or three last dorsal vertebræ produced darting pains across the anterior and superior portion



of the thorax—accordingly, I made a few scarifications over that portion of the spine and applied the cup.

28. Some improvement in every symptom except the pulse, which was as frequent as 100 in a minute, and possessed all the characteristics last mentioned under this head. No blood in the expectoration, nor has there been any noticed for the last two or three days—the quantity of matter expectorated becoming less, and improvement in quality; breath less fœtid, and appetite remains as on the 25th. Doubled the dose of the pills, and ordered other medicines as on the 22d of March, except the Dover's powder. Cupping had removed the spinal irritation. Prescribed, however, tinct. of fol. digitalis purp. in doses of 12 drops once in 6 hours, and "increase one drop at a dose until it produces considerable dizziness."

May 4th. Pulse 75; cough had abated considerably; appetite improving; not exercised with much pain; a slight hectic flush remaining; abatement of cold chills and burning heat; skin free and moist; matter expectorated less in quantity, and there exists a slight pyalism. Continue all medicines as mentioned on the 22d of March, or rather as stated on the 28th of April; and in addition, directed the common oint. of tart. ant. et potassa, to be applied over the centre of the sternal region, until it produces considerable irritation.

9. A decided improvement in every respect except the pulse, which remains 80 in a minute, soft, not much hardness, and but little of that peculiar sharpness remaining; coughs and expectorates but little; pain and constriction in the thoracic region very trifling; skin free and moist; stomach less irritable; appetite improving, as likewise the muscular strength; free from chills or burning flushes of heat; discharges from the bowels regular and more healthy. Continue the medicines as last mentioned; and in addition, directed the application of plasters spread from emp. hyd. to the spinal region.

18. Improvement continues. The ointment had produced a fine crop of pustules over the inferior portion of the sternal region; appetite quite good; pyalism continues; is improving in strength; is able to sit up most of the day and walk about some; is not exercised with any pain, and the medicines are continued. Prescribed one grain doses of sulph. quinine (which I consider to be an exceedingly valuable tonic, more especially as its power is almost wholly spent in giving tone and energy to the circulating system primarily, and to the nervous and digestive systems secondarily), to be repeated once in five hours.

June 1st. My business leading me into the neighborhood, call on him—improvement continues. Prescribed the anodyne pl. of Prof. Tully, instead of the pills mentioned April 25, and the usual soda powders.

July 6. Continues to improve, though not so rapidly as when I last saw him. Medicines continued.

18. Not so well. The contents of another abscess had been discharged; cough more severe; rather more restless nights; appetite not so good; in other respects much the same. Prescribed pl. assafoetida in doses of four grains once in five hours, and lay by the other medicines except the pl. of Prof. Tully, and pl. hyd. Prescribed tinct. actæa race-



mosa in doses of 15 drops once in six hours, and increase two drops at a dose, until it produces considerable vertigo.

August 16. Rapidly improving—is now able to labor some; muscular strength increasing, and to appearance is nearly well, except a slight cough, which is diminishing. Lay aside the assafœtida and pl. anodi. Continue the actæa racemosa and quinine.

Sept. 2. My patient called on me to-day, and expresses himself as quite well—has rode a distance of seven miles on horseback, and appears quite pleased to be able to do so. Of course must feel well in order to be able to ride 14 miles on horseback, for that would be the distance from his house to my place, including the return. The actæa racemosa is only continued.

Should this patient hereafter suffer from repeated attacks while under my care, it will be communicated for publication; and the result, whatever it may be, carefully noted down.

October 3d, 1836.

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#### A NEW APPLICATION IN CHRONIC PURULENT OPHTHALMIA ATTENDED WITH GRANULATED LIDS.

BY EDWARD J. DAVENPORT, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

ANN BRADLEE, aged 36, applied for advice Aug. 28, 1836, for a chronic conjunctivitis of both eyes of two weeks standing. The present inflammation commenced in the left eye, with heat, itching, and swelling of the eye-lids, accompanied with a profuse discharge of purulent matter of a yellow color, and mixed with hot scalding tears. The right eye became affected, though in a slight degree, in the course of two or three days afterwards. There had been also severe pain of forehead, with a sense of stricture, aggravated towards night and remitting in the morning. There was the usual intolerance of light, but not excessive. The inflammatory symptoms were preceded by a sensation as of a stick, or some foreign substance, in the eyes, and this, it should be observed, is a peculiar characteristic of conjunctival inflammation. Upon examination, the sclerotic conjunctiva was found to be highly injected, the vessels being superficial, and forming a vascular net-work of a florid red color. But the palpebral conjunctiva exhibited the most striking evidence of the purulent character of the disease, this membrane being its true seat. Here the conjunctiva was of a dark red color, villous, much thickened, and covered, especially where it is reflected over the upper lid, with granulations, consisting, however, not of the true product of an ulcerated surface, but of acini or mucous glands, greatly enlarged and firmer than natural. The semilunar fold of conjunctiva, situated at the internal canthus of the eye, was much increased in size, and highly vascular. It seemed to extend itself into a fold or roll of membrane, filling up entirely the sacculus, formed at the point where the conjunctiva is reflected from the globe to pass over the lower eyelid. This was most readily seen by

everting the lower lid, when the fold was observed like a fungous excrescence protruding from the eye. Notwithstanding the great amount of disease, the cornea retained its integrity and transparency unimpaired, nor was the power of vision at all diminished. A slight dimness or haziness of vision occurred, however, at times, from the collection of the morbid secretion of the lids upon the surface of the cornea, but this was merely temporary. The lids externally were swollen, the inflammation forming a red circle or areola around each eye. The granulated state of the lids above mentioned, was not the result of the present attack of ophthalmia, but was the consequence of a previous attack that occurred three or four months since, which had left the eyes in a weak and irritable state, predisposed to renewed inflammation from any exposure or indiscretion on the part of the patient. The cause of the original attack was supposed by the patient to have been "a cold," but the eyes had been weakened by long-continued application to needle-work.

To relieve the overcharged and crowded condition of the bloodvessels of the eyes, 12 oz. of blood was taken by cups from the back of the neck, immediately after which the lower eye-lids were freely scarified; by which means the conjunctiva became considerably paler. The patient was directed to take daily two oz. of the following mixture, and to repeat the same every 3d hour until free cathartic operation was induced; viz. *R. magnes. sulphat. 3ij. antim. tartarisat. gr. iv. aq. comm. 3viij. M.* The eyes to be kept covered with linen constantly wet in equal parts of diluted alcohol and water, and the diet to be light and simple.

On the 3d day after commencing this treatment, the sclerotic conjunctiva was found to be much less vascular, the head and eyes free from pain, and the inflammatory symptoms generally diminished. Everting the eye-lids, and wiping the lining membrane dry with a bit of soft rag, a solution of the sulphate of zinc, of the strength of 24 grs. to 1 ounce, was applied to the surface freely with a camel's hair pencil, care being taken not to apply it upon the eye itself. A few leeches were directed to be applied to the temples, and the daily cathartic and cold lotion to be continued.

At the 3d visit, a still further improvement in the state of the eyes was manifested. The application of the zinc was repeated, and a blister applied to the nape of the neck. A weak solution of the oxymuriate of mercury in distilled water (one gr. to ten oz.), was directed at the first visit, to be injected lukewarm into the eyes, for the double purpose of promoting cleanliness and of gradually diminishing the discharge.

At the 4th visit, on the 9th day, the inflammation was confined chiefly to the lining membrane of the eye-lids, and the zinc was continued as before.

13th day. The patient reported that her eyes were better than they had been at any time since the commencement of the first attack. The granulations were diminished in size, and the lids were much smoother and less swollen than before. There is little or no purulent discharge, and the patient can bear a moderate degree of light without inconvenience. Requests leave to resume her work. The zinc was directed to

be applied twice each week, and a weak solution of the same to be dropped into the eyes several times each day.

18th day. Patient was allowed to discontinue all treatment, excepting the daily application of a collyrium of a weak solution of the sulphate of zinc. Is able to return to her usual occupations.

The zinc acts in the cure of chronic purulent ophthalmia, of which the granulated state of the lids is merely a consequence and not the disease itself, as it does in gonorrhœa and other analogous diseases of mucous membranes, by its astringent properties. Of course it is more particularly applicable to recent cases of granulated lids, where the mucous membrane is soft and spongy. It should not be applied until after the removal of all inflammation of the eye-ball, by the proper means. The advantages of zinc over escharotics, are briefly these: it causes less pain at the time and subsequent to the application; it is not followed by the inflammation of the eye-ball, common after the use of the nitrate of silver, sulphate of copper, &c. and never occasions ulcerations and consequent cicatrices of the eye-lids, which are too apt to occur after the use of caustics, and presenting when they do occur a very serious and permanent source of irritation. In those cases of purulent ophthalmia, by no means of rare occurrence, in which, after the subsidence of the acute stage, the palpebral conjunctiva is left in a lax and flabby state, with the mucous glands enlarged and pouring forth a gleet and superabundant secretion, the application of a strong solution of zinc daily or on alternate days, will have a most beneficial effect. In other cases, it will answer by way of a change, a consideration of no trifling importance in obstinate diseases, where remedies, however appropriate, will by degrees wear themselves out, and require to be replaced by new ones.

As soon as leisure permits, reports of some similar cases will be presented, containing farther evidence of the beneficial results of this plan of treatment.

*Boston, Sept. 1836.*

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#### THE INFLUENCE OF THE VACCINE VIRUS ON SCROFULA.

[Translated from the Bulletin Clinique, December, 1835, for the Medical and Surgical Journal.]

M. C. ADRIEN, in a dissertation on scrofula, endeavors to show, by a number of observations, the effect which vaccination has upon this terrible malady. We will quote from the author the paragraph in which he explains his method of treatment.

"Up to the present time, vaccination, almost exclusively employed for smallpox, has been excluded from the treatment of other diseases. Practitioners have indeed remarked that a large number of chronic affections have been cured while the system was under the influence of the vaccine virus; but none of them for a moment have thought of employing vaccination as a therapeutic agent in any of them. Their experience had indeed demonstrated the specific action of

the vaccine matter against smallpox, and they also bore witness, *en passant*, to the numerous cures of other diseases which were coincident with it; but the facts are too numerous for us not to see in these cures something more than a mere coincidence; and they establish incontestably, in my opinion, at least, the great efficacy of vaccination in scrofulous disorders. In order to prove this, I will mention some cases which have fallen under my notice.

"A young girl, aged 12, exhibiting all the signs of a scrofulous constitution, had been troubled ever since her second year by an ophthalmia which had resisted all the usual remedial means. The glands of the neck were swollen, the conjunctivæ injected, and ulcerated; and upon the transparent cornea of the right eye there was a well-developed web. Thirty punctures were made from the right angle of the maxillare inferius to the opposite side. Twenty-four pustules only were perfectly developed, and these produced an inflammation so considerable that it continued nearly a month. At the end of this time both the ophthalmia and the swollen glands had disappeared. Ten years have elapsed since the operation, and the girl continues to enjoy good health.

"Another child, of a frail and delicate constitution, and lymphatic temperament, in whom a slow and painful dentition had caused a swelling of the inferior part of the forearms and legs, had been entirely cured by a comfortable regimen and the accomplishment of dentition. But at 9 years of age, a lymphatic tumor developed itself upon the spinous processes of the four first dorsal vertebræ. This tumor was indolent, insensible, and measured four inches in length by three in breadth. Every method was taken to remove this tumor, for the space of a year. But it continued to make sensible progress, and as the child had not been vaccinated, thirty punctures were made upon the tumor; ten more were made upon a gland of the neck which had swelled to the size of a walnut. The vaccination occasioned a very violent fever, which continued from the eighth to the thirty-fourth day; and at that time all the troubles disappeared."

Other authors have also observed the same results; without making a therapeutic agent of vaccination, they have, since its discovery, instituted numerous experiments in order to determine to what degree it possesses the anti-variolic virtue. In these experiments they have been struck with the cessation of numerous disorders, and the renovation of the health and constitution of the individual inoculated. These advantages were either attributed to the perfection of the eruption, and to the regularity of the motions which accompany it, or regarded as the effect of prolonged suppurations from the place of puncture. M. Adrien cites the authors who have observed the influence of the vaccine inoculation upon the health. Mr. Richard, of Plymouth,\* says he has generally observed the health strengthened after vaccination. He mentions two examples, one a young girl, the offspring of a phthisical father, subject to vomitings, having habitually, in consequence of disease, a pale color, and a face covered with livid spots; the vaccination took kindly, and

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\* Some Observations on Vaccination. London, 1800.

the child recovered its health in a few months. The second, a child of two years of age, naturally delicate, then convalescent from a bowel complaint, pale, extremely feeble, and oppressed in breathing. After having been vaccinated, it immediately recovered its strength and size, and a free and easy respiration.

Dr. Sacco\* mentions that in vaccinating children afflicted with paralysis or a partial weakness in the arms or lower extremities, with chronic affections of the glands, or with other kinds of cachexia, he has purposefully made a great number of punctures, to the amount of thirty or forty, and that some rapidly convalesced, and others experienced a sensible amelioration from it.

B. B. APPLETON, JR.

Sept. 29th, 1836.

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SCHOOL DEMONSTRATIONS IN ANATOMY.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR—A few weeks since, your Journal contained some highly commendatory remarks on the anatomical department of the Harvard Medical School, assuring your readers that the Professor was sparing no pains nor expense to render the facilities for proficiency in that part of the instruction as perfect as possible. There is one important means of improvement to the students—I may say the most so of any which can be furnished—respecting which you did not inform us. Perhaps you are not yourself informed about it; and therefore I would respectfully inquire, through your paper, of those who are able to answer the question, whether or not there is to be a competent DEMONSTRATOR of Anatomy, to aid and instruct the students in their dissections during the approaching term.

S.

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BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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BOSTON, OCTOBER 19, 1836.

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SELECT MEDICAL LIBRARY AND ECLECTIC JOURNAL OF MEDICINE.

A PROSPECTUS of this new Journal will be found on our last page. Although it is very well known that the medical periodicals already established in this country, as a whole, are poorly sustained, and the fact notorious that several excellent ones, ably and learnedly conducted, have absolutely died of starvation, we nevertheless wish every new comer may have better success, and therefore feel heartily disposed to aid and assist in this new enterprise, by giving that portion of the medical public to whom we have access, an early knowledge of the proposition.

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\* Trattato della vaccinazione. Milano, 1809.

In this plan the reader will discover something very similar to that pursued by Gen. Green, at Washington, under the eye of Prof. Patterson. How their scheme has succeeded, we have no means of knowing; of the slovenly work of the printer, and the miserable quality of the paper, we can bear positive testimony, as also to some bitter complaints of irregularity in the transmission of the numbers. Some attempts have been made to republish standard foreign works, in this way, but they have invariably resulted in a failure. In the first place, the subscription price appears quite too formidable, although no one would pretend to say that a library was not thus procured at even less than half price. In the constitution of things, a majority of mankind appear to prefer to be half their lives in procuring conveniences, which they might collect in a single year, because they do not feel that so much has been expended, when gradually disbursed, as when a large purchase is at once paid.

With regard to our own individual feelings upon this subject, Dr. Bell's object meets with our warmest approbation, and we shall not only be exceedingly gratified to receive the Eclectic, but to have it liberally and cheerfully sustained by others. The older we grow, the more interest do we feel in the success of enterprises which are designed for disseminating medical knowledge. If ever there was a period, in the history of the United States, when the principles of true science were actually called for, to stem the torrent of systematic quackery, this is surely the time. By some unaccountable circumstance, pretenders, of the lowest order, are not only permitted to tamper with the lives of their fellow beings with impunity, but they also organize themselves into bands, like brigands, under some one well skilled in the knaveries of the craft, who directs his emissaries with as much authority in the bold business of imposition, as a general marshals an army. We tender our services in assisting Dr. Bell in circulating his new Journal at the north—still doubting its success, to the extent to which its claims will undoubtedly entitle the publishers to expect—and therefore solicit a few copies for gratuitous distribution, on its first appearance.

#### DYSPEPSIA.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR—There is one subject I should like to see treated by men of talents and experience in the Journal—it is chronic diarrhœa and dyspepsia, with irregular and too loose bowels, particularly *that form of it attended by soreness of the tongue, fauces, and œsophagus, and perhaps of the whole alimentary canal.* The prognosis and beneficial treatment are the main points. You would oblige me by calling attention to the subject. The treatment of dyspepsia, in my opinion, is of greater importance than that of tetanus or hydrophobia. It has long been the custom of medical men, when composing, at their leisure moments, short essays for medical journals, to select cases of rare occurrence in medicine or surgery. However true and appropriate their remarks may be, they can be of little service to mankind in general, since a second one of these rare cases but seldom falls to the lot of the same practitioner. Practical remarks on diseases of daily occurrence, and on medicines in common use, would be of much more service to the profession, and consequently to mankind. Dyspepsia is a disease of more frequent occurrence, perhaps, than any other; and although not immediately dangerous or alarming, yet it embitters and poisons every source of human comfort.

G.

**Consumption and Fever.**—A case occurred many years since, in the practice of Dr. Croswel, of Catskill, N. Y. in which the patient, after having suffered from phthisis so long as to be subject to a regular cough, hectic, and the usual expectoration, was seized with a regular intermittent which continued two or three weeks, without much abatement of her phthisical symptoms. After the disappearance of the fever, the consumptive symptoms increased in violence, and in six or seven months terminated fatally. The phthisis was supposed to have been originally occasioned by a severe intermittent.

**Stagner's Truss.**—Will some one be so kind as to give us some account of the success of this instrument? It has been remarked that great soreness, pain, and a degree of unnecessary inflammation are induced by it, from which no adequate advantages were derived. Moreover, why can we not be favored with a specimen to show inquirers?

**DIED.**—In Cornwall Co. N. C. Dr. Thomas Pinckney, aged 23.—In Virginia, Dr. P. N. Norris, of Woodville, Me.—In Penfield, N. Y. Sept. 8th, after a long and very distressing illness, Dr. Pliny Goulding, in the 34th year of his age.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending October 15, 59. Males, 24—females, 26.  
Stricture, 1—cholera infantum, 1—disease of the heart, 2—bowel complaint, 3—dropsy on the brain, 2—teething, 4—murdered, 1—infantile, 5—inflammation of the lungs, 1—accidental, 3—old age, 3—liver complaint, 2—consumption, 6—decline, 1—intemperance, 1—fits, 1—spasms, 1—typhous fever, 3—dysentery, 2—cancer, 1—chickenpox, 1—child-bed, 1—canker, 2—hip complaint, 1.

**WILLOUGHBY MED. COLLEGE.**  
(Willoughby University of Lake Erie, Ohio.)

THE Lectures at this Institution will commence on Monday, the first of November next.  
AMASA TROWBRIDGE, M.D. Professor of Surgery and Medical Jurisprudence.  
DANIEL L. M. PEIXOTTO, M.D. Professor of Theory and Practice of Physic, and of Obstetrics and diseases of children.  
J. LANG CASSELS, M.D. Professor of Chemistry.  
H. A. ACKLEY, M.D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.  
WM. M. SMITH, M.D. Professor of Materia Medica.  
The price of Tickets for all the Lectures, - - - - - \$55  
Graduation Fee and Diploma, - - - - - 15  
Matriculation and Library Ticket, - - - - - 5  
The College buildings will be ready for the accommodation of students, and the Chemical and Anatomical rooms provided with ample apparatus and demonstrations.  
Boarding at Willoughby, from \$1 50 to \$2 50 per week. Oct. 19.

**TO MEDICAL STUDENTS.**

H. A. DEWAR, M.D. intends forming a class for the study of Dentistry, in every branch. The number will be limited, and each student will have an opportunity of becoming practically acquainted with all the operations and manipulations requisite. Dr. D. has provided a large and commodious work-room for their exclusive use. Further particulars may be learned by calling on Dr. Dewar, No. 1 Montgomery Place.  
Boston, Oct. 7, 1836. 11—Oct. 19

**MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.**

THE subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction, and will receive pupils on the following terms:

The pupils will be admitted to the practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and will receive clinical lectures on the cases they witness there. Instruction, by lectures or examinations, will be given in the intervals of the public lectures, every week day.

On Midwifery, and the Diseases of Women and Children,	by	DR. CHANNING.
On Physiology, Pathology, Therapeutics, and Materia Medica	- - - - -	DR. WARE.
On the Principles and Practice of Surgery	- - - - -	DR. OTIS.
On Anatomy	- - - - -	DR. LEWIS.

The students are provided with a room in Dr. Lewis's house, where they have access to a large library. Lights and fuel without any charge. The opportunities for acquiring a knowledge of Anatomy are not inferior to any in the country.

The fees are \$100—to be paid in advance. No credit given, except on sufficient security of some person in Boston, nor for a longer period than six months.

Applications are to be made to Dr. Walter Channing, Tremont Street, opposite the Tremont House, Boston.

WALTER CHANNING,  
JOHN WARE,  
GEORGE W. OTIS, JR.  
WINSLOW LEWIS, JR.



**PROSPECTUS OF THE SELECT MEDICAL LIBRARY, AND ECLECTIC JOURNAL OF MEDICINE.** Edited by JOHN BELL, M.D. Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence; Member of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and of the American Philosophical Society, &c.

A periodical publication so decidedly and obviously beneficial to the profession, for whose use it is intended, as the *Select Medical Library and Eclectic Journal of Medicine*, needs little to be said in the way of explanation and eulogy.

Many of the works of the most distinguished authors in medical science are out of print. Many English works and continental ones translated into English, of the present day, possessing indisputable merit and practical value, are not accessible to the great majority of American medical readers, because they are not republished on this side of the Atlantic. Of the first class it is sufficient to mention Sydenham, Huxham, Cleg-horn, Fordyce, Jackson, &c. &c.; and of the latter, Armstrong's Lectures on the Practice of Physic, Andral's Clinical Reports, Edwards on the Influence of Physical Agents on Life, Christison on Poisons, Burrows, Neville, and others on Insanity, &c. &c. It is proposed to supply this double and obvious want by the publication of the *Select Medical Library*, through which, at a moderate cost, and in a comparatively short period, a subscriber will find himself in possession of many entire works on the various branches of medicine.

In the *Eclectic Journal*, the histories of cases which have a definite bearing and application, summaries of opinion and practice, criticisms brief and pertinent, will find a place. The circumstances which exert an influence over the health, both of individuals and communities, shall receive a due share of notice; it being as much the duty of the physician to foresee, and by timely warning to prevent, as, after its infliction, to cure disease. In the performance of this task the more salient points will be presented,—the actual wants of the profession indicated, and all proper and practicable ameliorations, both scientific and ethical, suggested.

A few words may be added, in conclusion, respecting the actual position of the person under whose guidance the above views are to be carried out. Free from the trammels of party, under no obligations to any medical government, corporation, or association as such, and having, withal, no personal grievance to complain of or to be redressed, the editor is placed in circumstances favorable to impartiality. Nor can he be accused of vanity, if he ask from his professional brethren and friends an acknowledgment of his firmness in maintaining that which to his judgment shall seem useful and proper. He would also say, that he does not rely on the goodness of his intentions, nor on habits of industry alone, for the success of the present undertaking. Experience is on his side. He has had editorial training for not a short period, under circumstances sufficiently arduous, and with, be it added, associates of known and admitted worth and ability. And as, fortunately, the same pleasurable relations of intimate intercourse still subsist between them and him, he will be justified in availing at any time of their friendly counsel. But if he thus, with a feeling of pride, refer to his friendships, he can with sincerity declare himself free from enmities. His sympathies are with the whole body of that noble profession of which he is a member. Towards the advancement of its credit, by elevating its character, and increasing its usefulness, will his labors be diligently and zealously directed.

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Each division will have its separate paging; so that whenever a work is finished in the *Library*, it can be detached from the *Journal*, and having a full Title-page, Table of Contents, or Index, it can be bound up in regular book form. The *Journal* itself will make a large volume in the course of the year.

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